



The Center: Show Up | July 1, 2020

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

If we want to make a difference in this world sometimes what it takes is just showing up. But showing up may look a little different than we would like to think or what we have done in the past.

Key Verses

1 Corinthians 9:19-24

Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

Discussion

Illness is an incredibly tough subject to discuss. But if you, a friend, or a family member were diagnosed with a serious disease, how we respond would speak volumes to how much we care. This is a scenario that rings painfully true for most, but illness and other hardships present an opportunity to reflect and be present with the relationships we deeply care about.

1. If a loved one were diagnosed with an illness, what are the first or most important things you would do?
2. If you were diagnosed with the same illness, how would you want your family and friends to help you?

Starting this conversation with a focus on loved ones is easier because we have faces and names connected with our engagement. If we apply the same preferred responses to illness to things like race relations, religious disagreements, politics, people who look different, or even people we don't like; we not only improve relationships, we are closer to living out the faith journey as the Bible portrays.

3. Who is someone you know that you disagree with or don't understand? Why?
4. What, if anything, might you have in common? What might be some ways to "show up" in the difference and the similarities?

In the Bible, Paul said that, *"I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some."* Paul intentionally put his privilege and his preferences aside to truly understand the people he was trying to reach. Paul didn't lead by telling them everything he knew or what they should and shouldn't believe, rather, he took time to sit with others and learn their side of things as a way of showing them a loving God. He finishes this set of verses with, *"that I may share in its blessings."* The very act of entering into someone's world and spending intentional time there is sharing "IN" the blessings.

5. What could you do this week and in the coming weeks to live out your faith by simply showing up and taking time to listen to the perspectives of others?
6. Based on Paul's example of becoming like something he is not, what might be the most difficult person, people, or place to show up?

What's Next?

This week as you live out your faith, challenge yourself to think differently than you have in the past. Take time to talk with someone you disagree with or wouldn't regularly engage with. Ask questions and learn about someone else's life experience. This is the Gospel in motion. In doing so, you will share in its blessings.

You can find a template of our 5-minute faith journal at faithinfive.com to further engage your goals and connect them with your faith.